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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**SDNG announces closing of Lemmon armory**

RAPID CITY, S.D. - The South Dakota National Guard announced on Tuesday, Sept. 16, that it is closing its armory in Lemmon and will consolidate the unit in Spearfish, Sturgis and Belle Fourche.

“It is the National Guard’s responsibility to ensure our Soldiers have the absolute best training possible,” said Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard. “By consolidating this unit, I believe we are doing the right thing for our troops.”

Doohen said that by consolidating the 842nd Engineer Company to more centralized locations, National Guard leaders will be able to maximize resources and training capabilities, and develop a more cohesive team that will be ready when crisis or disaster strikes.

“By consolidating this unit, our Guard will be able to respond quicker with a higher level of readiness and capability,” said Doohen.

The Lemmon armory will close within the 2009 fiscal year, which begins on Oct. 1, 2008, and ends on Sept. 30, 2009. The unit’s headquarters will work out the details for the move.

The armory is co-located with the Lemmon School District.

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